

August 2003

SOUTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*

Major Phil Tilt

## Overview

The Southern Command percentage of staffed sergeant and trooper positions continued to drop for August 03 as compared to August 02. There were 11% fewer traffic sergeant and trooper field positions filled in August 03, as compared to August 02, and there continues to be 38.5% commercial trooper position vacancy rate. During the month of August 03 there was an 11.6% increase in overall crashes as compared to August 02 but there was a 6.8% drop in crashes as compared to July 03. Southern Command personnel increased total enforcement, in August 03, by over 10%, as compared to August 02, and increased total enforcement slightly over July 03. I continue to compliment Southern Command personnel for their hard work and dedication toward the accomplishment of our mission under increasingly difficult circumstances.

Southern Command personnel handled 992 crashes throughout August 03 as compared to 889 total crashes in August 02. Total crashes went up 11.6%. The most notable change is Fatal crashes. Fatal crashes went down 83.3%. Total persons killed went down 88.9%. There were a total of two Fatal crashes in August 03 and two people died. The last month that the Southern Command handled as few as two Fatal crashes, in one month, was February 02.

Southern Command commercial operations continue to increase their activity in many areas, when compared to August 02. Some notable areas are a 353.8% increase in hazardous moving violations, an 89.3% increase in total safety violation citations, and 35% increase in total safety inspections. There was a dramatic increase in the overall number of commercial vehicle involved crashes. We had an 82.2% increase in commercial crashes in the month of August 03 as compared to August 02. Part of the reason for the increase in commercial involved crashes is that we have gotten better at accurately tracking commercial crashes. None of the commercial crashes in August 03 were fatal and there was a 17.6% decrease in injury crashes. Commercial crashes were 8.3% of the total crashes handled by Southern Command. Southern Command will continue to focus on hazardous commercial moving violations and out of service violations.

Southern Command continues to struggle with the ever increasing traffic congestion resulting in an increasing crash rate. The scheduling of back to back lateral and a recruit academy will, over time, reduce the vacancies and allow the Southern Command to become much more pro-active in our efforts to reduce crashes. It should be noted, however, that the North Las Vegas Police Department has just received a Home Land Security grant that will allow them to hire up to 25 new officers in the very near future. NLVPD commanders have made it clear that they intend to target NHP Troopers to fill as many of the new positions as they can. I fully expect that the Southern Command will experience another round of personnel losses to this department. A significant loss will postpone this command's ability become more pro-active in crash reduction as well as our ability to change our current scheduling.

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## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	August 2003		August 2002	% Change		July 2003	% Change
Total Crashes	992		889	11.6%		1064	-6.8%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	721		623	15.7%		726	-0.7%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	269		254	5.9%		328	-18.0%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	2		12	-83.3%		10	-80.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	57		38	50.0%		41	39.0%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	2		18	-88.9%		11	-81.8%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1		8	-87.5%		2	-50.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		4	-400.0%		1	-100.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1		3	-66.7%		6	-83.3%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		1	-100.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	82		45	82.2		57	43.9%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	68		26	161.5%		46	47.8%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	14		17	-17.6%		10	40.0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		2	-200.0%		1	-100.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.2%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 5.7%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 50.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 8.0%

## NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

Analysis of the crash data table this month reveals nearly a 12% increase in total crashes over the same period last year, but a raw number decrease of 72 crashes over the previous month. This month, the largest percentage of increase occurred in the property crash category; 15.7% over the same month last year, but we experienced a 0.7% decrease over the previous month. Injury accidents increased 5.9% over the same reporting period last year yet decreased 18% from the previous month. Fatal crashes decreased by a raw number of 10 over the same month last year, but decreased by 8 over last month. We continue to experience no identifiable patterns as to locations or cause for fatal accidents.

As previously noted, highway construction continues within the Las Vegas Valley, and is a primary cause for traffic congestion, and traffic accidents. Highway travel continues to be high during the last month of summer vacation, and is also a contributing factor to the accident situation.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	August 2003		August 2002	Year to Year Percentage Change		July 2003	Prior Month Percentage Change
DUI arrests from crashes	57		38	50.0%		41	39.0%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	125		125	0.0%		147	-15.0%
Other Arrests	755		172	339.0%		774	-2.5%
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	341		335	1.8%		360	-5.3%
Speed violations	2882		3145	-8.4%		3074	-6.2%
Hazardous moving violations	1910		1902	0.4%		2002	-4.6%
Occupant restraint violations *	515		461	11.7%		569	-9.5%
Total violations [above violations included]	9204		9143	0.7%		8353	10.2%
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	59		13	353.8%		99	-40.4%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	142		136	4.4%		224	-36.6%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	401		297	35.0%		611	-34.4%
Terminal inspections [level 5] / CR ONLY	2						
Total safety violations -- citation	195		103	89.3%		353	-44.8%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1535		1891	-18.8%		2231	-31.2%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	105		78	34.6%		149	-29.5%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	50		25	100.0%		76	-34.2%
Total school buses inspected	195		231	-15.6%		346	-43.6%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	20		34	-41.2%		56	-64.3%
Total trucks weighed	59		100	-41.0%		235	-74.9%
Total overweight citations	10		40	-75.0%		35	-71.4%
Total dyed fuel inspections	407		44	825.0%		625	-34.9%
Total dyed fuel citations	1		0	100.0%		2	-50.0%

\* Seat belt and child restraint

### NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

The overall enforcement index was up 0.7% as compared with the same month last year, and shows an increase of 10.2% over the previous month of the same year. Staffing levels for the same period in the region fell 2% over the previous month while total crashes decreased.

When compared to the previous month, region personnel decreased in DUI detection by 15%, total arrests decreased by 5%, total speed violations decreased by 6%, and hazardous moving violations decreased by 4.6%. Even with the drop in enforcement from the previous month, accidents decreased overall from last months statistics.

## STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

STAFFING	Authorized positions		Current positions staffed		Percentage of authorized	
	August 2003	August 2002	August 2003	August 2002	August 2003	August 2002
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	149	161	89	114	59.7%	70.8%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	26	30	16	19	61.5%	63.3%
Commercial CVSI	5	5	4	5	80.0%	100.0%
WORK HOURS LOST	August 2003		August 2002	% Change	July 2003	% Change
Annual leave	1832.75		2388.5	-23.3%	1486.25	23.3%
Compensatory leave	469.75		454	3.5%	433	8.5%
Sick leave [personal and family]	1683		1088.8	54.6%	1641.5	2.5%
Military leave	336		380	-11.6%	550	-38.9%
Holiday off	0		0	0.0%	90	-9000.0%
Training	1936.5		3057.75	-36.7%	1251.25	54.8%
Administrative leave	198		0	19800.0%	109.25	81.2%
Leave without pay	0		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Vacancy [173 hours per position*]	12283		10034	22.4%	11937	2.9%
<b>Total work hours lost</b>	18739		17403.05	7.7%	17498.25	7.1%
OVERTIME	August 2003		August 2002	% Change	July 2003	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	2640.68		2916.61	-9.5%	2008.85	31.5%
Compensatory overtime claimed	200.75		227.95	-11.9%	205.5	-2.3%
<b>Total overtime hours</b>	2841.43		3144.56	-9.6%	2214.35	28.3%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	August 2003		August 2002	% Change	July 2003	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours*	31140		33908	-8.2%	31140	0.0%
Work hours lost	18739		17403.05	7.7%	17498.25	7.1%
Overtime	2841.43		3144.56	-9.6%	2214.35	28.3%
<b>Total hours worked</b>	15242.43		19649.51	-22.4%	15856.1	-3.9%

\* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

## ***STAFFING / WORK HOURS/ COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT***

### **STAFFING LEVELS**

Southern Command Staffing was further reduced after the resignation of one more trooper during the month of August 2003. The loss of staffing due to leave and training exceeded the equivalent of 34 trooper positions or over one-third of the remaining staff.

By factoring the loss of manpower created by vacancies, leave and training, the average field operations traffic position in the Southern Command investigates 18 crashes, arrests 3 DUI drivers, and issued 150 traffic citations for the month.

### **OVERTIME**

Overtime continues to drop from prior year averages. This month overtime decreased another 9.6% overall compared to last year at this time. There was an increase in overtime claimed compared to last month but the increase was still less than last years average due to the reduced staffing levels.

### **CONTRACT SERVICES**

Contract Services agreements had a significant increase during August, recording 254 hours of contract time from 12 contracts. These contracts reimbursed the Highway Patrol \$11,834.00 in overtime costs. This brings the Southern Command total Contract Service Overtime for Fiscal Year 2003/2004 to 646 hours from 22 contracts which reimbursed a total of \$ 21,330.00.

### **COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**

August staffing for Commercial enforcement remained unchanged at 16 commissioned troopers and sergeants, and four CVSI's.

Currently, three commercial troopers are temporarily assigned to traffic operations; two to Urban-Las Vegas and one to Rural-Laughlin District. One Commercial Trooper is permanently assigned to the Glendale District. Of the twenty six authorized commercial positions, (12) three Sergeants and nine Troopers are currently assigned to Las Vegas Commercial Operations.

## **RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT**

### **ACCIDENT RATIOS**

Ratio of crashes per Traffic position	
Total	11.1
Property	8.1
Injury	3.0
Fatal	0.0
DUI	0.6
Commercial vehicle	0.7
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash	1.0
without seatbelts	0.5
with seatbelts	0.5

### **FIELD ENFORCEMENT**

Ratio of enforcement per Traffic position	
DUI arrests from crashes	0.6
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	1.4
Other Arrests	8.5
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	3.8
Speed violations	32.4
Hazardous moving violations	21.5
Occupant restraint violations	5.8
Total violations	103.4

The Traffic Enforcement Ratios can be broken down further to give a more accurate picture of the distribution of workload in the Southern Command between Urban and Rural Operations:

Traffic troopers assigned to the rural areas of the Southern Command had a crash ratio of 4 crashes per staffed field operations position. Eighty-three citations were issued per staffed position and 1 DUI arrest was made per position.

In the Urban areas, the crash ratio was 13 crashes per staffed traffic position. Ninety-one citations were issued per staffed field position and 2.25 DUI arrests were made per position.

## **RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT *Cont'd***

### **INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS**

Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations - citations	*	3.7
Other traffic violations - citations	*	8.9
Total safety inspections [all levels]		20.1
Terminal inspections TIP		0.1
Total safety violations -- citation	*	12.2
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation		0.5
Total safety violations -- repair order		76.8
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order		3.8
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"		5.3
Average vehicles placed OOS per inspection		0.3
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"		2.5
Average drivers placed OOS per inspection		0.1
Total school buses inspected		9.8
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"		1.0
Total trucks weighed	*	3.7
Total overweight citations	*	0.6
Total dyed fuel inspections	*	25.4
Total dyed fuel citations	*	0.1

\* Commercial sworn only

### **NARRATIVE ANALYSIS**

The ratios for Commercial Enforcement per Commercial position have decreased due to the increase in leave and significant increase in training. Hazardous citations decreased from 7.6 to 3.7 per position. Total safety inspections are down from 35.9 to 20.1 per commercial trooper. Total vehicles weighed are down from 18.1 to 3.7. Dyed fuel inspections are down from 48.1 to 25.4, and dyed fuel citations decreased from 0.2 to 0.1.

Level 1 inspections and the weighing of interstate vehicles occurs primarily at check sites. Currently, day shift commercial has 3 troopers assigned and swing shift has 5 troopers assigned. The contributions of 3 troopers to traffic operations, combined with the increase in training and leave, have significantly reduced our opportunities to conduct check sites.

## **COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**

There are significant decreases in every category of field enforcement activity over the previous month of July. Compensatory and Annual Leave increased from 337 total hours to 376 for the month of August. Sick leave increased slightly from 190 total hours to 214 for the month of August. The most significant factor in reducing patrol time and activity is training; Total training received increased from 278 total hours for July, to 504 hours for August. Training remained given unchanged at 45 hours. Of the 2609 total hours, 1139 hours (43%) was spent in training and leave. The additional contribution of a trooper temporary assigned to rural traffic operations has also helped to decrease our overall activity.

The Commercial enforcement section of the Southern Command decreased their overall safety inspections from 609 to 399 as compared to July. 120 of those inspections being Level 1 inspections. The levels of hazardous moving violation enforcement decreased from 99 for July, to 59 totals for the month of August.

Total Commercial vehicle crashes increased slightly from 57 for the month of July (corrected), to 82 for the month of August. Of those 82 crashes, 68 were property damage, 14 were injury, and 0 were fatal. Fifty-nine percent of the crashes involving commercial vehicles showed the commercial vehicle as V1. The 48 crashes that showed the commercial vehicle as V1 also showed the driver being at fault 62% of the time.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS**

### **EVIDENCE VAULT**

The evidence vault AAIL position remains vacant as the hiring process continues. The evidence vault booked in 185 items during August from 100 new cases. This is a 31% decrease from the same time period last year. An analysis of the items submitted found that 90% were submitted by NHP, 9% were submitted by Parole and Probation, and less than 1% from Nevada Division of Investigation. There has been a new Sergeant's position placed in charge of the evidence vault to assist with the work load in the evidence area. Currently the Administrative Sergeant's have contacted the Municipal courts to set up a program for the evidence technician to access records directly for case dispositions.

### **COMMUNICATION CENTER**

The Southern Command Communications Center continues to maintain a vacancy rate of 54%. Interviews were conducted during the month of August and six PSD I applicants were forwarded to the background process. The three trainees are currently in phase four of the required training and should be released by the end of September. We had initially intended to train the new employees as call takers and maintain that status until the next group was hired. We were not able to do this as we were faced with some challenges to include re-writing the statewide training manual and the delays in the hiring process. As a result of these challenges the trainees continued with the current scheduled training process.

The Southern Command is exploring solutions to resolve the superannuated process of providing the media and motoring public immediate access to information regarding road conditions. One solution is a MEDIA LINK which would allow the media and citizens immediate internet access to view the locations of incidents causing traffic obstructions or delays. The link would be a cooperative effort between CAD and the State of Nevada Internet site. The media link would automatically update information on a set time and could be set up on a statewide basis or command basis. This would be a temporary fix until the FAST system is implemented.

A reorganization of the radio channels was completed on August 31, 2003. This reorganization will split the valley traffic into two channels and the administrative traffic will be combined with the rural traffic. This reorganization will be used to study and evaluate calls for each dispatch console and monitor field troopers concerns regarding channel scanning abilities.



## **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS *Cont'd***

### **RECORDS SECTION**

The Records section processed 1,018 crash reports during August with 56 of those reports made in the office. Fifteen of the 56 Office Reports were the result of Hit and Run crashes. Administrative Services personnel produced 15 office reported hit and run crash reports during August 2003. Administrative Services personnel cleared 28 of these investigations. This translates to over a 75% clearance rate.

Over 5,657 crash reports were mailed out to Insurance Companies, Attorney Offices, and local prosecutors.

In addition to the release of public records, over 110 vehicles were released after being impounded for improper registration.

The front office had over 738 visitors requesting services from the Nevada Highway Patrol.

Over 240 film rolls were processed and 1,193 film (prints) were requested.

### **COURT SERVICES SECTION**

The Court Services Section received 337 bench warrants from area courts during August. Eight hundred thirty-one warrants were entered into the Criminal Justice Information System with another 227 cleared from the same system. The Section also validated over 4,174 active warrants, checking for accuracy and completeness.

One out-of-state extradition was completed through the coordination of the Court Services Section, along with 9 transports. The section has accepted one bail in lieu of transporting the prisoner for \$200.00.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **RESIGNATIONS**

Charles Hopps - Trooper

### **COMMENDATIONS**

- American Trucking Associations wrote to thank Trooper Diaz and Lt. Tice for their support with the "Share the Road" program.
- Hirschi Masonry wrote to thank Trooper James for the professional and efficient manner in which he conducted himself at the scene of an accident.
- Two citizens wrote to thank Trooper Wiltse for being professional and courteous.
- The Command Staff provided commendation letters to thank Troopers and civilian employees for their participation in the Determined Promise 2003 Exercise.
- The Command Staff provided commendation letters to all personnel for their extra efforts during the floods.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

- **NAFB Incoming Airman's Briefing**  
Explained local DUI traffic laws to newly assigned Airman (50 Airmen)  
August 5
- **Channel Five "Summer of Speed story"**  
Story that focus' on swing shifts direct enforcement. Sgt. Rikalo and Trooper Martini assisted in the story.  
August 14
- **NAFB Incoming Airman's Briefing**  
Explained local DUI traffic laws to newly assigned Airman (50 Airmen)  
August 19
- **Exercise Determined Promise**  
2 PIO Troopers located at the Joint Information Center for 36 hours and 2 on scene PIO Troopers used for on scene scenarios. Note during operation we were used in two federal documentaries.  
August 19, 20, and 21
- **Drivers Edge –Class 2 of 7**  
(200 teens and 50+ parents) safe driving and DUI discussion/ roll over simulator used and two Troopers. Trooper Kintzel assisted day shift.  
August 20
- **Drivers Edge Class 3 of 7**  
(200 teens and 50 + parents) safe driving and DUI discussion / roll over simulator used.  
August 21
- **Patriot Act Speech**  
AG Ashcroft spoke at the Federal Courthouse. 1 Lt., 1 Sgt., and 2 Troopers attended this function.  
August 26
- **215 @ Lone Mountain Opening**  
1 Lt and 1 Trooper attended the ribbon cutting ceremony of the opening of Clark County Road 215 and Lone Mt.  
August 29
- **911 "Fallen through the cracks" Memorial escort**  
Two Troopers escorted over 50 Harleys, 2 fire trucks from New York and several other emergency vehicles from State line (I-15) to the Harley Davidson Motorcycle shop at Sahara and Eastern.  
August 31

Nevada Highway  
Patrol

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## ***PROJECTS***

### **PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING OFFICERS**

During the month of August the Southern Command hosted a Public Safety Training Officers training class in Las Vegas. A total of 28 Troopers from throughout the State attended this training which created 28 new Public Safety Training Officers for new recruits. This training also included a Train the Trainer that certified 16 Troopers, Statewide, to allow Nevada Highway Patrol to train their own Public Safety Training Officers. We also invited P & P officers to attend this training to begin their training programs for new Officers.



*"The best way to predict your future is to create it".*

*Unknown*